(c) The total amount, the Railways owe to each State on account of GRP as on 31.03.05 is as under:—

S.N .	Name of State	Amount outstanding (Rs. In crore)
		2.20
2.	Bihar	10.61
3.	Chhattisgarh	2.23
4.	Gujarat	8.28
5.	Haryana	0.07
6.	Jharkhand	3.16
7.	Karnataka	6.15
8.	Kerala	1.44
9.	Maharashtra	52.34
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10.51
11.	Rajasthan	5.84
12.	Tamil Nadu	3.32
13.	Uttar Pradesh	4.08
14.	West Bengal	20.05
	TOTAL	130.28

The outstanding is mainly on account of excess operation of GRP Posts by the State Governments without the approval of Railway administration and non-submission of Accountant General's Certificate by the State Authorities.

(d) Railways have standing instructions to pay all clearly admissible bills.

Shortage of skilled engine drivers

1401. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are acute shortages of skilled engine drivers in the Indian Railways and therefore Government have decided to give extension to retiring rail drivers for further one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the requirement of skilled engine drivers for the Indian Railways in the next five years how will it met by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, re-engagement (and not extension) of retired hands subject to prescribed conditions has been allowed on daily remuneration basis to tide over any exigency that may arise due to day to day shortage.

(c) Requirement of Drivers is worked out in six monthly reviews and met by normal procedure for recruitment from open market and promotion of staff from the feeder grades.

Gauge conversion between Rangia to Murkhoselek

1402. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why the gauge conversion work between Rangia to Murkhoselek is not taking place; and

(b) by when the work is going to be taken up by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek including linked fingers has been taken up. The detailed estimate for Rangia-Rangapara North has been prepared. Hydrological study of the area undergo regular washways/subsidences/slips etc. have been taken up by Indian Institute of Technology/Roorkee.

Sub-standard foodstuff in Shatabdi trains

†1403. DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by Government regarding sub-standard quality of food-stuffs being served in Shatabdi trains and the action taken by Government threon;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.